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Editor's Note: The President was in Greensboro, GA, on June 20, the closing date of this issue. Releases and announcements issued by the Office of the Press Secretary but not received in time for inclusion in this issue will be printed next week.

WEEKLY COMPILATION OF

PRESIDENTIAL DOCUMENTS

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Week Ending Friday, June 20, 2003

The President's Radio Address

June 14, 2003

Good morning. June 14th is Flag Day, which commemorates the date in 1777 when the Continental Congress officially made the Stars and Stripes the symbol of America. The Founders declared that the 13 stars gracing the original flag represented "a new constellation," just as America represented a new hope and a new light for mankind.

Over the past 226 years, our flag has been a symbol of freedom wherever it flies. It inspires hope in people suffering under tyranny or terror. It welcomes immigrants from every land searching for a better life, and it rallies our Nation in times of conflict and crisis.

Whenever the flag is raised, Americans are reminded of our unity in the great cause of liberty and justice for all. Our Nation's flag is hung proudly in homes and schools, honored in parades and stadiums, flown on the field of battle, and folded at the graves of heroes.

When Francis Scott Key saw the Stars and Stripes flying over Fort McHenry in 1814, he knew that liberty would persevere. That same faith was affirmed by marines who planted the flag at Iwo Jima and by the heroes of 9/11 who raised and saluted the flag at Ground Zero.

By showing respect for our flag, we show reverence for the ideals that guide our Nation. And we show appreciation for the men and women who have served and sacrificed in defense of those ideals, from the early patriots of the Continental Congress to the members of our military defending freedom around the world today.

This weekend, in communities across the Nation, Americans will have the opportunity to honor the flag and to thank the men and women who serve our country in uniform. As they continue to fight the war on terror in lands far from home, our troops rely on the support of their fellow citizens. I urge all Americans to participate in Flag Day celebrations honoring American Armed Forces and recognizing our veterans.

Our Nation is strengthened every time a citizen steps forward to serve a cause greater than self-interest. And each of us can serve and strengthen America by reaching out to neighbors in need. There are so many ways to improve the lives of fellow Americans, by answering the call to feed the hungry or caring for the elderly or teaching a child to read or joining with neighbors to support the police, fire fighters, and medics who respond to emergencies. Every action you take will strengthen the bonds of community that unite all Americans and extend the promise of American life to another citizen.

Between now and the Fourth of July, Americans will reflect often on the foundations of our freedom. Our country's founding generation established liberty and justice on this continent more than two centuries ago, and every generation is expected to protect and defend those ideals. Our duty as Americans is to serve our country, to defend the cause of liberty, and to extend the realm of freedom across the Earth. Our generation can proudly say that we are answering that call.

Thank you for listening.

NOTE: The address was recorded at 10:05 a.m. on June 12 in the Cabinet Room at the White House for broadcast at 10:06 a.m. on June 14. The transcript was made available by the Office of the Press Secretary on June 13 but was embargoed for release until the broadcast. The Office of the Press Secretary also released a Spanish language transcript of this address.

Exchange With Reporters in Kennebunkport, Maine

June 15, 2003

Situation in the Middle East

The President. Good morning.

Q. How are you?

The President. Good.

Q. Do you want to visit a bit?

The President. Sure.

Q. What's your assessment of things in the Middle East?

The President. My assessment is, is that there are people that want peace to go forward, and there are people that don't. And for those of us who want peace to go forward, we must combine our efforts to prevent people like Hamas from sabotaging peace.

I'm confident we can achieve peace. It's going to be a tough road, but I am determined to continue to lend the weight of this Government to advance peace.

Q. Sir, why haven't you called Prime Minister Sharon and Abbas?

The President. We're in touch with the Governments. We're in contact with the Israeli Government as well as the Palestinian Authority. The message is clear: Prime Minister Abbas wants peace; Prime Minister Sharon wants peace; America wants peace; the European Union wants peace. But there are clearly killers who don't. And for those of us who are interested in moving the process forward, we must combine our efforts to cut off all money, support for anybody who tries to sabotage the peace process.

Q. Will you send Dr. Rice to the region?

The President. I'll let you know if we decide to. Of course, we just got out—Ambassador Wolf* is there now, and he's working the process.

Q. Are you willing to give money or arms to the Palestinian Authority to help them out with Hamas——

The President. We would like for the Palestinian Authority to set up a security force under Mr. Dahlan that will do the job that Prime Minister Abbas assured me that they're interested in doing, which is to defeat those terrorists who will do everything they can to deny the establishment of a peaceful Palestinian state. And a peaceful Palestinian state is in the interests of the Palestinian people.

Q. [*Inaudible*]—have enough arms, enough money?

The President. We are in the process of helping them implement a strategy which is—was described to us in Aqaba as to how the Palestinian Authority want to reconstitute a security force in order to make sure the terrorists, the haters of peace, those who can't stand freedom, do not have their way in the Middle East.

I believe peace is possible, and I believe we've got a lot of work to do to get there.

Q. Do see a break in the violence right not, in the last several days?

The President. It seems like it, but you know—but until these people are brought to justice, those who are killing people in order to deny the establishment of a Palestinian state, there will be violence. And so the mission of the free world, those who care for peace, is to deny the people like Hamas the ability to destroy and to kill. And I believe that the agents of peace, the people who love, those who care about a decent future for the suffering Palestinian people, and those who live in Israel, will prevail. But it's going to take a lot of work.

Listen, have a wonderful Father's Day.

Iran

Q. ——think of the unrest in Iran?

The President. I think that freedom is a powerful incentive. And I am—I believe that someday freedom will prevail everywhere, because freedom is a powerful drive for people to—and it's the beginnings of people expressing themselves toward a free Iran, which I think is positive.

Hamas

Q. Sir, have the Israelis been justified in going after Hamas——

The President. Wait for us to succeed peace. Wait for us to have two states, side by side—is for everybody coming together to deny the killers the opportunity to destroy. And that's what they want to do. There are people in the Middle East who hate the thought of a peaceful Palestinian state. That's what they can't stand. And the objective of this Government and my objective as the President is to move the process forward so a state is established. It will be a peaceful state, a free state, a prosperous state, so people have hope. And in the meantime, before

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* White House correction.

that state is established, it is clear that the free world, those who love freedom and peace, must deal harshly with Hamas and the killers. And that's just the way it is in the Middle East.

But we've laid out the way forward, and I intend to keep the process moving. And I believe we can have a peaceful Palestinian state living side by side with the Israelis.

Have a great Father's Day. We'll be out there catching fish.

NOTE: The exchange began at 9:50 a.m. outside Cape Arundel Church. In his remarks, the President referred to Prime Minister Ariel Sharon of Israel; Prime Minister Mahmoud Abbas (Abu Mazen) and Minister of State for Security Affairs Mohammed Dahlan of the Palestinian Authority; and Assistant Secretary of State for Nonproliferation John S. Wolf. A tape was not available for verification of the content of this exchange.

Remarks to the Business Community in Elizabeth, New Jersey

June 16, 2003

Thanks for the warm New Jersey welcome. Thanks for giving me a chance to come by and share some thoughts with you about the challenges that this country faces.

First, I'll tell you it was good to be with my dad over Father's Day. I hope you all had a good Father's Day as well. Spent a lot of time fishing together and caught a few fish—[*laughter*]—but thanks for letting me come by.

I just came from Orange, New Jersey, and—went by the Andrea Foods pasta factory. That's you. The Savignanos and the Wilkinsons were there, Rose Marie and Michael. They're the sons and daughters of Andrea and Dora, who started the business. It's so refreshing to see the American Dream alive and well, just like it is at Andrea Foods.

I was struck by the diversity of Orange, New Jersey. I saw a lot of different nationalities as I drove through. It reminded me of a couple of things about our country, one, that we are the land of opportunity and the land of hope and we will keep it that way. We're also a—part of being a land of opportunity means that we must continue to foster what I call the ownership society, to encourage value and honor, owning—people owning their own business or owning their own home, maybe someday owning their own pension plan in the security—Social Security system, having the right to make choices in the health care sector. Those things that makes America strong and unique is not only are we a hopeful land and a diverse land, but we're a land that honors ownership.

Today I want to talk about the importance of small businesses. I want to herald the entrepreneurs. I want to say thanks to those who have taken risk. And I want to remind our fellow citizens that in order for our economy to recover, we must remember the strength and the importance of the small-business owner in America.

So I want to thank all the small-business owners who are here today. Thank you for taking risk. Thank you for employing a lot of our fellow Americans. I want to thank the associations who helped put this event together.

I want to thank Hector Barreto, who is the Administrator of the Small Business Administration. I want to thank him for his kind introduction. I want to thank him for his work in helping to create an environment in which people from all walks of life are willing to risk capital to own their own business.

I want to thank the mayors who are joining us today. I want to thank the folks that I had a chance to visit with at Andrea Foods. I visited with entrepreneurs, visited with taxpayers; I mentioned Michael and Rose Marie. I also talked to John Cicero and the Harveys, Paul and Lisa. These are people who will benefit from the tax relief plan because they're married, because they pay taxes, and because they have children.

And I met the Memmelaars, father and son, of Royal Master Grinder, a small business company right here in this part of the world. I met Pat Mulhern of Mulhern Belting * Company. We sat around the table, and I listened to the concerns of both taxpayer employee as well as small-business owner. And the concerns are great, but the concerns can be solved.

Probably the greatest concern about making sure that—that our country is confident

* White House correction.

and optimistic is to make sure the country is secure. People want to have a secure environment in which to risk capital. And therefore, our biggest challenge, or one of the biggest challenges, is to make sure that we continue to fight and win the war on terror.

In Washington, DC, and at the State level and at the local level we all have what I call a charge to keep, which is to do everything we can to protect the American homeland. And that only—not only means making sure that we cooperate better at the Federal, State, and local level and do a better job with our borders and our ports to communicate better, but it also means that we've got to stay on the offensive. The best way to protect the homeland is to hunt the killers down, one at a time, and bring them to justice, which is what America will do.

On September the 11th, our country was shocked—this part of the world was particularly shocked—at the violence, the sudden violence done. We were shocked into recognizing that oceans can no longer protect us from harm, and therefore we have the serious charge to keep.

And we acted. This Nation acted because this Nation will not be intimidated. This Nation will not be blackmailed by terror. This Nation will do what it takes to defend something we hold dear to our hearts, and that is our freedom. And we acted. We acted on a doctrine that says, "We will bring you to justice because of what you did to the American citizens. And if, by the way, if you harbor a killer, if you feed a killer, if you hide a killer, you're just as guilty as the killer." We acted, and the Taliban no longer is in power in Afghanistan, which is not only good for the security of the free world; it is incredibly good for the people who suffered in Afghanistan under barbaric rule.

This Nation acted to a threat from the dictator of Iraq. Now, there are some who would like to rewrite history; revisionist historians is what I like to call them. Saddam Hussein was a threat to America and the free world in '91, in '98, in 2003. He continually ignored the demands of the free world, so the United States and friends and allies acted. And one thing is for certain—and this is for certain: Saddam Hussein is no longer a threat to the United States and our friends and allies.

We've got a lot of brave troops still on the move, still looking for terrorists. We're cooperating with our friends and allies. We're sharing intelligence. We're running down their money trails. But one thing is certain for the American people to know, that this Government will use whatever technologies and skill is necessary to secure America by hunting down those who would harm us, one person at a time. It is a charge we have been given, and it is a charge we will keep.

We also had to deal with an economy which was not as strong as it was—that we wanted it to be. My attitude is, if somebody is looking for work and they can't find a job, we got an issue. And therefore, we acted. I went in front of the United States Congress when I first got elected and said, "This Nation is—looks like it's in recession. We need to let people have more of their own money in order to stall off the recession."

You see, when the economy is grinding down, when it's not as strong as it should be, when demand is lax, the best way to deal with an economic slowdown is to let people have more of their own money, is let people spend their own money, increase demand for goods and services, which is exactly what we did. And we had one of the shallowest recessions in our Nation's history as a result of the tax relief plan.

But then the terrorists hit us. September the 11th was a shock not only to our national conscious; it hurt our economy. And we began to get our bearings and get our feet on the ground, and then another shock happened to America. We discovered that some of our corporate citizens forgot what it meant to be a responsible leader. Some of our corporate leaders didn't tell the truth, tried to fudge the facts, weren't honest with the shareholders and their employees. And that hurt the confidence of our economy. By the way, they will pay a price for not telling the truth.

But we needed more action, so I went in front of the Congress this year and I said, "Let's come together. Let's set aside all the party politics and partisan bickering and remember why we're in Washington in the first place. We're there to do what's right for the

American people. We must care about how to help somebody find work. That's what we ought to be focused on, not partisanship but what's right for the American people."

And thankfully, enough of us got together and passed a tax relief plan that will allow the American people to have more money in their pocket, that will encourage businesses to make more investment, and that says to investors, "We want you to invest more." The tax relief proposal was based on a simple principle. It starts with, the money we spend in Washington is not the Government's money; it's the people's money.

And when you've got additional money in your pocket, you're going to demand a good or a service. And when you demand a good or a service in this economy, somebody is going to meet that demand. Somebody will produce the good or a service. And when that happens, somebody is more likely to find work. That's the basis of the tax relief plan, the jobs-and-growth package that I proposed and that was passed.

And here's what was accomplished. We've lowered taxes all across the board, so that people have more take-home pay. And that's important, not only for the individual consumer and the taxpayer, but that's equally important for small businesses. And the reason it's important for small business is most small businesses are Subchapter S or sole proprietorships, which means they pay taxes at the individual level. So when you hear me talk about reducing individual tax rates, the American people have got to understand that means capital infusion into the small businesses of America, which means somebody is more likely to find work when small businesses have more money to invest and more money to spend.

The child tax credit has been expanded from $1,000—to $1,000 from $600, and the $400 differential will be in the mail by July. I was going to say, "Check's in the mail." [*Laughter*] Better be in the mail. [*Laughter*] Somebody might be looking for work in Washington. [*Laughter*]

We reduced the marriage penalty, which helps a million New Jersey couples. We have cut the top rate of taxes of dividends and capital gains to 15 percent. Small businesses under the bill that I signed can deduct up to $100,000—up from $25,000—in new equipment from their taxes. And if they invest more than $100,000, they qualify for a 50-percent bonus depreciation that further reduces the cost of investment.

These are important incentives for economic vitality and growth. These are so important that people like Andrea Foods is now contemplating new capital investment. They're contemplating buying new machines that will make their business more productive. Productivity is an important part of any small business. It enables you to better compete. It means it's more likely you'll have a stable workforce. It means you can get a better return on dollars spent.

These good folks at Andrea make 1,200 pounds of pasta every minute. I saw a lot of calories grinding through. [*Laughter*] Yet, Rose Marie and Michael are not satisfied with the production level of their company. They want to expand. They want to make more jobs available in the neighborhood in which they work. They want to be able to compete better. And so they're now contemplating a new—buying a new pasta cooker and a new flash freezer, which will expand their production by 50 percent. They took a look at the tax relief plan; they calculated the benefits; they said, "It makes sense for us to buy new machinery so that we can expand."

And that's really important. It's not only important for their business. It's likely that if this—if all goes well, they'll add 20 more employees. But it's pretty darn important for the person who's going to manufacture their machine and sell it to them. In other words, their decision has more to—has much more to do than just inside their own business. Their decision affects other people as well, and that's why this part of the law is so important.

And so when Michael turns around and orders a pasta cooker, he may talk to John at MBC Food and Machinery in Hackensack, New Jersey. After all, they've been doing business with each other for quite a while. At least their dads have been doing business with each other for quite a while. They've had a history of working together.

But would—John has seven employees busy on the—would keep seven more employees busy if this machine order comes in. And he's excited about it, obviously. He's hoping Michael makes the right decision. [*Laughter*] Maybe we can arrange a contract right here. [*Laughter*]

But it all happened as a result for Congress coming together and asking the fundamental questions, "How do we get this economy going again? What can we do that's wise enough to encourage investment, particularly at the small-business level?" The ability to expense capital dollars more quickly for small businesses and in greater amounts for small businesses is an incredibly important part of economic growth because small businesses provide most of the new jobs created in America.

And that was the common story I heard this morning by the small-business owners, "We intend to take advantage of the smart things you did in the Tax Code in order to increase employment and to make sure our businesses are more productive."

We've also got other problems that we need to deal with here in America to make sure our small businesses grow. One of those problems is too many lawsuits. People are getting sued too often. We've had some abuse in the class action lawsuits, which make life more expensive here in America. And I appreciate very much the House of Representatives dealing with this issue. And I strongly support the measures they took, the reform on class action, which makes the—easier for class action suits to end up in Federal court. This has got better restraint on the excesses that sometimes take place as a result of class action lawsuits.

In other words, in order—if you get into Federal court, it makes it easier to stop lawyers from shopping around the country looking for a favorable court. Because generally what happens is, in a class action suit, the people who are suing get very little and the lawyers filing the suit get a whole lot. And that doesn't seem fair to the Congress, and it doesn't seem fair to me, and the Senate needs to act.

I'm concerned and mindful about what paperwork and regulations do to small businesses. So I put out an Executive order that requires all Federal regulatory agencies to minimize the burden on our small businesses. And I expect Hector to make sure that the burden is minimized on the small businesses. We've got an issue e-mailing—[*applause*].

I'm concerned about the fact that we don't have a national energy policy. You know, this country has made a wise decision to protect our air and water, and that's good. In order to protect our air, many of the powerplants have switched to natural gas. Natural gas is a clean-burning fuel.

The problem is, we don't have a policy that encourages the exploration for natural gas, so demand is going up for natural gas and supply isn't. And that's why you're seeing the price rise. We need commonsense energy policy in America. We need an energy policy that makes us less dependent on foreign sources of energy, and we need an energy policy that uses our technologies in such a way that we can explore, in environmentally safe ways, for additional supplies of natural gas. When demand for a product goes up and supply doesn't follow that demand, prices will rise.

The Congress must act. I have proposed commonsense, reasonable energy policy for America. The House has passed a bill. The Senate is debating the bill. For the sake of American consumers and small businesses, we need a national energy policy.

I understand the cost of health insurance to small businesses. I understand the need for us to put good policy in place that doesn't nationalize health care, that doesn't make the Federal Government the end-all for health care, but a policy that addresses concerns. For example, health clinics for the poor all across America are necessary to take the strain off of small businesses as well as community hospitals. We need to have associate health care plans to allow small businesses to come together and pool risk, which will take the pressure of rising premiums.

We need to help our docs. If one of the things we need is accessible and affordable health care, it makes sense to push for medical liability reform. We got too many junk lawsuits that cause docs—[*applause*]. In a litigious society, particularly for doctors, doctors and hospitals will practice what's called

preventative medicine. They will do tests—ask for tests, perform tests, just to protect themselves in a court of law. And that's expensive. And that becomes expensive for consumers. And then, of course, these lawsuits will cause doctors' premiums to go up. And that causes the consumers to have to pay more. Or in some cases, it causes doctors not to practice medicine. It drives them out of business. If you're interested in having a health care system that is—provides affordable and accessible health care, you ought to join the efforts to have medical liability reform.

Now, when I came to Washington, DC, I took a look at the issue and I said, well—you know, having been a Governor, I said, "Well, maybe these issues ought to be solved at the State level." Then I looked at the impact on our budgets. Preventative medicine and the high cost of litigation drives up the cost of Medicaid, drives up the cost of Medicare, drives up the cost of providing veterans with health care.

I've come to the conclusion that all these lawsuits are a national issue and therefore require a national solution, and I've sent up an idea to the United States Congress that says that people ought to have their day in court; bad docs certainly ought to be punished; people ought to recover economic damages, but there ought to be a hard cap on non-economic damages and there ought to be a reasonable cap on punitive damages. In order to be able to get a handle on the cost—rising cost of health care, we ought to let our docs practice medicine without fear of a junk and frivolous lawsuit.

Finally, when I get back to Washington here in an hour, I'm going to start again working on the Medicare reform package. I believe that this Nation can set aside the old-style politics and come together and make sure our seniors have got a health care system that is modern, that includes prescription drugs, and that allows our seniors the same opportunity that Federal employees have, which is the ability to choose a plan that best meets their needs. Listen, if choice in health care is good enough for Members of the United States Congress and their employees, it ought to be good enough for the seniors of the United States of America.

We've got issues, but we're going to deal with them. We've got challenges, but there's no doubt in my mind we can overcome them. There's been a lot of talk around the world about the muscle of the United States of America, and we're pretty strong. But our military muscle is not the true strength of America. I mean, there's no question about it, we've got the capacity to fight and win war and therefore make the world more peaceful. There's no question about it, because of our technologies and the skill and bravery of our troops, we can now target the guilty and protect the innocent.

But those who focus only on that don't really understand America. The strength of America is the heart of the American people. The strength of this country is the great compassion of the people who live here. Today when I got off the Air Force One, I met Marisa Fountainhas. You probably never heard of Marisa. She is a graduate of New Jersey Institute of Technology. But the reason I bring her up is because she volunteered at the St. John's soup kitchen. She decided that a patriotic American is somebody who does more than just put their hand over their heart and pay taxes or—hopefully less taxes now—[*laughter*]—but somebody who is willing to serve something greater than themselves.

At the same time, Scott Stevens was there. You probably heard of old Scott. He just happened to win the Stanley Cup. The reason the two go together is because Marisa was recognized by the New Jersey Devils Foundation for her desire to make a difference in somebody's life and, therefore, was awarded a college scholarship. Marisa, thank you for coming. I'm glad you're here.

But Scott volunteers as well. He's knocking heads on the ice, and then he's trying to save lives off the ice. [*Laughter*] He volunteers at the School Assembly Program. In other words, he's using his position to make a difference in somebody's life.

There are people who hurt in America, people who wonder whether or not the American Dream is meant for them, people who hear the word "entrepreneurship" and not sure what the heck that means. Our attitude—or my attitude is, so long as one of us hurt, we all hurt. And therefore, we have

a responsibility as Americans to put our arms around somebody who hurts. And each of us can make a difference. The true strength of this country is the fact that there are millions of Marisas all across America, who without a Government law or without the President picking up the phone and saying, "Would you help somebody in need," are doing it on their own. And as a result, this society is and can and will continue to change, one heart, one soul, one conscience at a time, so that the bright lights of hope of this great country will be able to shine in every neighborhood, in every part of our land.

No, listen, we're tough, which will make the world a more peaceful place and a more free place. But the true strength of the country, the true strength of America, happens when a neighbor loves a neighbor just like they'd like to be loved themselves, and it happens every day in America.

Thank you all for coming. May God bless you, and may God continue to bless America.

NOTE: The President spoke at 11:47 a.m. in the Grand Ballroom at the Wyndham Newark Airport Hotel. In his remarks, he referred to Rose Marie Wilkinson and Michael Savignano, co-owners, Andrea Foods, and their parents Andrea and Dora Savignano; John Cicero, machinist, MBC Food Machinery; Paul Harvey, manager, Royal Master Grinder, and his wife, Lisa; John Memmelaar, Sr., president and chief executive officer, and John Memmelaar, Jr., salesperson, Royal Master Grinder; Pat Mulhern, owner, Mulhern Belting, Inc.; former President Saddam Hussein of Iraq; Marisa Fountainhas, New Jersey Nets and Devils Foundation scholarship recipient; and Scott Stevens, team captain, New Jersey Devils. The Office of the Press Secretary also released a Spanish language transcript of these remarks.

Remarks at Northern Virginia Community College in Annandale, Virginia

June 17, 2003

Thanks for the warm welcome. It's a pleasure to be here at Northern Virginia Community College. I am not the first person named Bush to come to this place, at least not the first person from my family named Bush to come to this place. It turns out my dad was here. President Templin was describing to me that he signed an important piece of legislation here on this stage. And then the Northern Virginia Community College wised up and invited my mother—[*laughter*]—who gave the graduation speech here. And as I explained to the President, they're now working their way down the food chain. [*Laughter*] But thanks for having me.

I appreciate the opportunity to come and talk about the fantastic opportunities that people can find in our community college system across the country; about the idea of the need to have flexibility to make sure that training programs actually work to help people for jobs that exist; to thank the teachers not only here at this community college but around our country for being a part of a necessary and fine profession; to tell the students there are better days ahead when it comes for finding work.

And to thank the Congress—Congressman Tom Davis is with us—and to thank Members of the Congress for coming together to pass a piece of legislation which will encourage job growth in our economy. As Elaine said, that I am concerned when I hear that anybody who wants to work can't find a job. And therefore, it was incumbent upon us, because too many of our fellow citizens were looking for work, to figure out ways to create an environment in which people would be willing to risk capital and expand the job base.

And we did that by passing a really important piece of legislation. The jobs-and-growth bill will pass back money to the people who sent the money to Washington in the first place. And it will help with a—it helps because when people have more money in their pocket, they're going to demand an additional good or a service. And we need an increased demand in a sluggish economy. And when somebody demands an additional good or a service in our economy, somebody's going to produce that good or a service. And when that happens, someone is likely to find work.

The jobs-and-growth bill came at the right time. And I want to thank the Congress for passing that bill. And as we expand the number of jobs in our economy, we better make sure that we have retrained people or trained

people to fill those jobs. And that's what I want to talk about today. And that's why I'm grateful for President Templin for opening up this hall for me to speak, because it's here at our community colleges that people are likely to find the skills necessary to fill the jobs of the 21st century.

I want to thank Elaine Chao for her service to our country. She is a member of my Cabinet. And she's doing a really fine job on behalf of the American people. And I want to thank you, Elaine, for your service.

I want to thank the attorney general of the State of Virginia for joining with us. General Jerry Kilgore is with us. I appreciate your concern; and I appreciate your interest; and thank you for coming.

I've already mentioned Tom Davis, and now I've mentioned him twice. We just had our discussion with people that—people who are either helping people find work, or people who needed to find work and have found work, or people still looking to find work.

And I want to thank those roundtable participants. Yvonne Golden is with us. She is a lady who is working, got laid off, didn't quit, and is now an independent bookkeeper. I appreciate your willingness to never give up hope and to be willing to retrain so that the skills that you have are honed to find—to find the work which exists.

Connie Mitchell is with us. She used to work at the postal service. She left, struggled for a while, went to—is now a—wants to become a nurse. It turns out, as Elaine said, there's a lot of people that are looking for nurses, a lot of institutions looking for nurses around America. Connie and Andrea Weeks, who is with us as well—that's her little squirt making some noise over there. [*Laughter*] She's a single mom, which means she's got the toughest job in America, being a single mom. Yet she hasn't given up hope. She's here at Northern Virginia Community College. She wants to be a nurse. To the extent possible, the community college is providing courses for would-be nurses.

The President explained to me there is a bottleneck when it comes to the training programs. We need to do something about it. We need to make sure that when there's demand for talent, people willing to acquire the skills necessary to meet that demand, that there is a smooth transition. And evidently there's a bottleneck in our community college system, which I've asked Elaine to look into and Congress must address when it comes to providing flexibility for worker trainer money—worker training money.

Ralph Orlandella is with us. He was gainfully employed. September the 11th of 2001 affected his employment picture; he was laid off shortly thereafter. He went to a One-Stop program run by Dai Nguyen who is with us; he's the program manager of the Falls Church SkillSource Center. He walked in the place; he found help from one of Dai's fellow workers. He's now a teacher at Hayfield Secondary School. He didn't give up. He went for help; help was available; the system worked. And now he's practicing a noble profession. And I want to thank you very much for doing that.

And I want to thank Dai and his fellow coworkers for making the One-Stop worker training center effective. After all, that's what we're interested in, is effective programming and effective use of taxpayers' money to help willing worker find a job and to have relevant skills for the 21st century.

We faced challenges. The biggest challenge we faced in order to get this economy going was for people to have confidence in the future. And there had been some uncertainty. September the 11th created a lot of uncertainty in America. After all, it changed how we—our strategic outlook. Oceans could no longer protect us from an enemy which hates what we stand for. And we made a determination as a country that no matter how long it took, we would hunt down those who hate freedom, the terrorists, and bring them to justice, which is precisely what this country has done and will continue to do.

We have engaged in two major battles in the war on terror, one in Afghanistan, where we made it clear that if you harbor a terrorist, you're just as guilty as the terrorist. And the Taliban paid a price for harboring and training Al Qaida. And as a result of the actions of the United States and our coalition, the people of Afghanistan are now free from the clutches of a barbaric regime and many young girls now go to school for the first time, thanks to the United States of America.

And we acted in Iraq as well. We made it clear to the dictator of Iraq that he must disarm. We asked other nations to join us in seeing to it that he would disarm. And he chose not to do so, so we disarmed him. And I know there's a lot of revisionist history now going on, but one thing is certain: He is no longer a threat to the free world, and the people of Iraq are free.

The world is still a dangerous place, but America will rise to the challenge. The security of our country is of paramount importance. And no matter how long it takes, no matter what the sacrifices may be, that the United States of America will fight for freedom and will defend the security of our people. It is a charge that we have been given, and it is a charge that we will keep.

We've also got a challenge here at home with our economy. As I mentioned to you, anytime anybody is looking for work, we've got an issue. And the tax relief plan is going to have a positive effect on the outlook of the American investor and the American consumer. After all, starting in July, there will be checks sent to American families with children reflecting the difference between the $600 child credit today and the $1,000 child credit that the Congress passed into law, which I signed. As we say in America, the check is in the mail—[*laughter*]—soon.

The point is, people will have more money in their pocket. And that's important. After all, it's not the Government's money we're talking about. It's your money. It's the people's money. And the Congress did the right thing in passing back the people's money. And in so doing, and reducing individual rates, we also provided impetus for growth in the small-business sector of America. After all, most small businesses are sole proprietorships or Subchapter S corporations, which means they pay tax at the individual income tax rate.

And when you reduce all rates on people who pay taxes, you're providing capital infusion into the small-business sector of America. And when you couple that with the—increasing the amount of money that can be deducted for capital expenditures in the year of expenses from $25,000 to $100,000, there is tremendous incentive for small-business growth. And that's vital, because 75 percent of new jobs are created by the small businesses of America.

And the bill I signed is going to be positive for job growth. And that's the whole focus of the legislation, is how do we create the number of jobs around our country so people can find work. And if one of those jobs are created, we must have a system which trains people for the jobs which actually exist. We invest $15 billion each year on job training and employment services, which Americans can now access through the more than 1,900 One-Stop Career Centers around the country. And that's positive. That's a consumer-oriented system where we take the opportunities to people in 1,900 different places for people to go and get help. People can check job listings there. They can get help to prepare a resume. And, equally important, they can sign up for job training programs.

And we're taking other measures to improve people's chances of finding work. First, we're working to train Americans for jobs that exist—I've said that twice. That's not the way it used to be. It used to be, "Are you training people?" And it didn't matter what you were training people for, the question was, "Are you training people?" Now we're asking the question, "Are you training people for jobs that exist so we can actually help the people we're trying to help?"

In this current economy, in spite of slow times, there are industries such as health care and high technology manufacturing that are looking for well-trained employees. That's a fact. The Department of Labor has got a program called High-Growth Job Training Initiative. What that means is we're forming partnerships with businesses to train unemployed workers in the skills that are in demand.

Connie Mitchell is a person who is involved in one such program. As I mentioned to you, she lost her job. She was at Dulles Airport. And this year she applied to a job training program funded by the Hospital Corporation of America, which is working in concert with the Department of Labor. If anybody here is from HCA, I want to thank you for being a good corporate citizen in America. I know you're working in your self-interests to find people to fill the slots you're looking for, but it's also helpful to team up

with the Department of Labor to provide a partnership to help people find work—you're pointing at that; thank you.

The program is paying for Connie's classes at Northern Virginia Community College. She will have a job with HCA when she graduates with her nursing degree. And she said she will have a career with really good training and a really good income. And that's important. We want Connies all across the country to have the same experience that she has had.

The administration is combining Federal resources with private funding to support these kinds of job training partnerships, and we intend to expand them into new areas. Right now, Secretary Chao is developing partnerships with companies in biotechnology and information technology. And these industries are growing rapidly, and as they do so, they need well-trained workers. And that's our mission, is to help more Americans to get the training necessary to qualify for the new jobs.

The second way we're helping people build careers is to direct aid for education at schools like this school right here. Community colleges make it possible for people to brush up on skills or to develop new skills. I mean, this is a place where you can get—can take your talents and convert them to meet the jobs of the 21st century.

And so, therefore, helping students attend community colleges like Northern Virginia Community College is good for the students; it's good for the colleges; and it's good for the economy. More than 1.8 million community college students rely on Pell Grants to help pay for their education and training. Pell Grants are very important for the future of this country. And therefore, I have asked for more than $12.7 billion of Pell Grants in—for the '04 budget. This is a 45-percent increase in funding since I took office. I've asked for that increase so more benefit—students can benefit from the opportunities made possible by Pell Grants.

Third, I'm asking Congress to establish what we call Personal Reemployment Accounts for unemployed Americans. Americans who face the greatest difficulty finding work under this vision will receive up to $3,000 to use in their job search. Different workers have different needs, so the concept is to provide flexibility to help those workers meet those needs. A person will be able to use the account for job training, or for child care, or for transportation, or money to help relocate to a city where there is a job. If a worker finds a new job quickly within three week—13-week period, he or she will be able to keep the balance in the account as a reemployment bonus.

The idea is to empower the person, not the system. The idea is to focus money on each individual and to give that individual the opportunity to use additional monies to help meet needs.

Yvonne Golden, who I just talked about, is a person who could have benefitted from such a program. She had 20 years of experience in banking and accounting. She wanted to get extra training quickly to qualify for additional jobs. She knew what she wanted to do, yet she had to wait a long time. The Personal Reemployment Account would have given her monies to meet certain needs in order to get into the job market a lot quicker, in order to get the training necessary to achieve her dream, which was to work and to get her own business going.

Now, these accounts are important accounts. I hope Congress takes them up soon. It is a way to help those who are supposedly tough to employ develop the skills necessary and to give them the flexibility necessary to meet their dreams.

The idea of trusting people and giving people flexibility to become better prepared for a—in a complex society makes eminent sense. That's why I've asked Congress to provide $3.6 billion for this initiative. The money would go to the States, and the States would be able to set the criteria for those who could qualify. And we believe that more than a million unemployed men and women across America would be helped by this amount of money. Congress needs to pass the proposal right away, because we've got people looking for work who need help.

The other thing is that Elaine and I are working with Congress to make sure that the monies we actually spend are used effectively. Right now the Federal Government funds adult employment and training programs through three different sources, all of

which have got different rules and regulations. These funding sources ought to be streamlined into one source and one set of rules and regulations. And the States ought to be given flexibility to expand services for people looking for work.

In other words, the system needs to be simplified and focused on the consumer, who happens to be the person we're trying to help find a job. A complex system makes it much harder for people to succeed. A complex system makes it hard to get results, the results we want, which is an educated workforce, people educated to meet the needs of the 21st century.

The House of Representatives—and Davis was very much involved in this—passed a bill that includes the reforms I'm talking about. And the Senate must act so that we can better get unemployed people back to work in America, so that we can make sure as our economy changes, the workforce changes with it.

Technologies race through our economy, and as they do so, the workforce can become much more productive. But the problem is, is that unless there is a concerted, focused effort to help our citizens stay up with technological change, people will be left behind. And that's not what we want in America. We want an educated workforce to keep this country the most productive in the world. And with the right focus and the right policies out of the United States Congress, this is an objective that I'm confident we can achieve, because I believe this country can achieve everything—anything we set our mind to. I believe in the greatness of America. And our greatness is not just our military might. We're great at that, by the way, but that's not our greatness. Our greatness is the ability for the American people to rise to any challenge. That is our greatness.

Look what we've been through. We've been through a terrorist attack and a national emergency; we've been through a recession; we've been through corporate scandals where CEOs forgot what it means to be a responsible citizen. People didn't tell the truth. They were not responsible to their shareholders and employees. They will be held to account for their irresponsible behavior. And that was a shock to our system. We've been through war.

And yet we're a strong nation and we're a confident nation, because we're a nation full of people who are hard-working and dedicated, people who love freedom, people who love our country, people who are responsible citizens.

But most importantly, we're a nation that is made up of compassionate people who care deeply when one of us hurts. There's a lot of people in this Nation who want to help those who are looking for work. The Federal Government has a role. The people who are involved in education have a role. Employers have a role. But the thing that gives me most heart is that the nature of the American person—the American people is such that when we face a challenge, we will rise to that challenge on an individual basis and a collective basis.

This is a fabulous country called America, and I'm proud to be your President. Thank you.

NOTE: The President spoke at 10:27 a.m. in the Ernst Community Cultural Center. In his remarks, he referred to Robert Templin, president, Northern Virginia Community College; and former President Saddam Hussein of Iraq. The Office of the Press Secretary also released a Spanish language transcript of these remarks.

Remarks Honoring NCAA Winter Champion Teams

June 17, 2003

Thanks for coming to the White House on Champions Day, the day we honor our Nation's champs.

I first want to say that, obviously, you know how to play hoops in the East—[*laughter*]—as our Texas teams found out. [*Laughter*] And it seems like Minnesota is pretty good at hockey too.

I now know why we've got all these Senators from New York and Minnesota and Connecticut, as well as Members of the House from those three States. Welcome, and thank you all for honoring these fine student athletes. We're glad you're here.

I want to welcome the University of Connecticut women's basketball team back to the

White House. Geno told me last time that—last time I greeted them here—that they would be back. He really didn't say it that way; we'll play like he said it that way—makes a better story. [*Laughter*] At any rate, congratulations to you all. I appreciate Jeffrey Hathaway coming as well. These ladies can flat play basketball, and they are a great credit to women's athletics and to sport. They'll probably be back next year too. We're really glad you're here, and I'm glad Diana has given me the jersey. She is—thank God I don't have to guard her. [*Laughter*]

I also want to welcome the University of Minnesota-Twin Cities men's hockey team back here again as well. I appreciate Don Lucia. I want to thank the athletic director, Joel Maturi, as well for coming. It's good to see these men back. They also know how to play hockey really well. They told me they'd be back again next year. Senator Dayton was a heck of a goalie in his day, but I don't know if he could stop these guys or not. [*Laughter*] I know the State of Minnesota is proud of your accomplishments. We're really glad you're here.

And we're also glad that the ladies' hockey team from the University of Minnesota-Duluth is here. It's good to see Dr. Martin. Thank you for coming back—as well as Shannon Miller. She's been the coach for 4 years and has won three national championships. It sounds like to me, Dr. Martin, you'd better give her a raise. [*Laughter*] It's a State issue, of course. [*Laughter*] But congratulations to you all.

I also want to congratulate Syracuse for winning their first national championship. It's a great tribute to Jim Boeheim, who is a heck of a guy and a great leader of men. Congratulations, Coach. I know you've worked hard for this. If it wasn't the University of Texas, I'm glad it was you. [*Laughter*] You've got some great players on your team. I'm sure some of us are going to be asking Carmelo Anthony for a loan one of these days—[*laughter*]—so keep the interest rates low. [*Laughter*] But congratulations on winning a tough tournament. You're a great credit to the sport.

I also want to welcome Mike Tirico, who is here. Where are you, Mike? Oh, there you are. Congratulations on being a Syracuse grad. I know you were objective in your analysis of the—[*laughter*]—of the tournament. But thanks for coming.

I—one of the things I really appreciate about these days is that, when you welcome these champs, is that it reminds people of the basics of life, the need to serve something greater than yourself in life. Championship teams don't win because of a star. Championship teams win because people are willing to work together for a greater good, in this case, the team. Championship teams win because people are willing to work hard and sacrifice for something important. These are values that are really important not only in sport but in life as well.

The other thing that's important about a championship team is to—for people to understand that you can be a champ on the court or on the ice as well as off the court and off the ice.

I've asked Dr. Martin if she remembered what I said last year about people serving their communities in which they live. She said, "You bet. We've got girls on our team who are mentoring." One girl said she works for the Boys and Girls Club.

My call to the champs is to be a champ off the playing—when you're not playing as well. You've got a chance to make a difference in somebody's life. There's always some little kid draped over the—draped over the ice, looking at the star Minnesota players, wondering what it's like to be a star. And a star is somebody who sets a good example. A star is somebody who says, "I've got some God-given talents, and I want to help somebody else utilize his or her talents so they can realize the American Dream." There's always some little guy hanging around or some girl hanging around courtside watching champs, watching behavior. And you have a chance as champions to set such a good example for America's young, so that the next generation of athletes will know what it means to be a champ on the court or on the rink as well as off the court and off the rink.

And so I'm here today to congratulate you for setting such a good example. Now that the spotlight is on you, assume responsibility. Do your job as an American. Love somebody just like you'd like to be loved yourself, and America will be a better place for it.

Welcome to the White House. May God bless your talents, and may God continue to bless our great country. Thank you very much.

NOTE: The President spoke at 3:23 p.m. in the East Room at the White House. In his remarks, he referred to Geno Auriemma, women's basketball head coach, Jeffrey Hathaway, athletic director-designate, and Diana Taurasi, player, University of Connecticut; Don Lucia, men's hockey head coach, University of Minnesota; Kathryn A. Martin, chancellor, University of Minnesota-Duluth; Carmelo Anthony, men's basketball player, Syracuse University; and Mike Tirico, sports commentator for ESPN and ABC.

Remarks at a Bush-Cheney 2004 Reception

June 17, 2003

Thank you all. I would say take a seat, but—[*laughter*] Thanks for coming. There's nothing like having a few friends over for a cocktail or two. [*Laughter*]

I appreciate you all being here. I had an uneventful ride over from the White House; nobody got hurt, and my Segway is parked outside. [*Laughter*]

I do want to thank you all for coming. Your support is laying the groundwork for a strong nationwide effort next year. Your support is going to help us achieve a strong nationwide victory.

I want to thank you for your help tonight. I want to thank you for what you're going to do as well. I want to thank you for helping to invigorate the grassroots all across this country. I want to thank you for the phone calls you'll make, for the signs you'll put up in the yard, and for helping spread the positive message of this administration.

The political season will come in its own time. Right now, this administration is focused on the people's business. We've got a lot on the agenda. We will continue to earn the confidence of the American people by keeping this Nation prosperous, strong, and secure.

I want to thank Marv and Doro for reading the introductions just like I wrote them. [*Laughter*] I really am sorry that one member of our family is not here, the great First Lady of the United States. She sends her best. Now that she's not here, I can tell you I am incredibly proud of the job she is doing. She is a strong, steady, gracious First Lady. And I say, "Now that she's not here"—she'd probably be angry with me for bragging on her.

I want to thank the chairman of our campaign-to-be, Marc Racicot. I want to appreciate Marc for his service to our country. I appreciate so very much my friend Mercer Reynolds' willingness to be the chairman of the Bush-Cheney National Finance Committee. This is our first event, as Marv and Doro indicated. It also happens to be Mercer's 58th birthday. He doesn't look a year older than 58. [*Laughter*]

I want to thank Julie Finley, Shelly Kamins, Jim and Sandy Langdon, Dwight and Martha Schar, and Dick Hug for being the cochairmen of this event. I want to thank all the folks who worked hard to put it on. Mostly, I want to thank you all for your generous contributions.

You know, in the last 2½ years, our great Nation has faced some great challenges. And we have acted decisively to confront them. I came to this office to solve problems, not to pass them on to other Presidents and other generations. I came to seize opportunities and not let them slip away. We are meeting the tests of our time.

Terrorists declared war on the United States, and war is what they got. We have captured or killed many key leaders of the Al Qaida network, and the rest of them know we're on their trail. In Afghanistan, in Iraq, we gave ultimatums to terror regimes. Those regimes chose defiance, and those regimes are no more. Fifty million people in those two countries once lived under tyranny, and now they live in freedom.

Two-and-a-half years ago, our military was not receiving the resources as needed, and morale was beginning to suffer. We increased the defense budget to prepare for threats of a new era. And today, no one in the world can question the skill and strength and spirit of the United States military.

Two-and-a-half years ago, we inherited an economy in recession. Then the attacks on our country, scandals in corporate America, and war affected the people's confidence,

and that hurt our economy. But we acted. We passed tough new laws to hold corporate criminals to account. We got the economy going again because we worked with the United States Congress to pass historic tax relief, not once but twice.

This administration stood on principled ground. We understand that when Americans have more take-home pay to spend or invest, the ecomomy grows and people are more likely to find a job. We're returning more money to American families to help pay their bills. We're reducing taxes on dividends and capital gains to encourage investment. We're giving small businesses incentives to expand and to hire new people. With all these actions, we have laid the foundation for greater prosperity and, more importantly, more jobs all across America so our fellow citizens have a chance to live the American Dream.

Two-and-a-half years ago, there was a lot of talk about education reform but not much action. So I called for and Congress passed the No Child Left Behind legislation with a solid bipartisan majority, delivering the most dramatic education reforms in a generation. We're bringing high standards and accountability to every public school in America. Every child can learn the basics of reading and math, and every school must teach those basics. This administration is challenging the soft bigotry of low expectations. The days of excuse-making are over. We now expect results in every classroom so not one single child in America will be left behind.

We have reorganized the Government and created a Department of Homeland Security to safeguard the borders and ports of America and to protect our people. We passed trade promotion authority to open new markets for America's farmers and ranchers and manufacturers. We passed a budget agreement that is helping to maintain spending discipline in Washington, DC.

On issue after issue we acted on principle. We kept our word, and we made progress for the American people.

And I want to thank the United States Congress for joining in these achievements. We will continue to work together to change the tone in Washington, DC, by showing good will and by focusing on results.

One of the reasons this administration has been successful is because I have surrounded myself with really fine men and women who serve the people of America. They're task-oriented people. They know their job is to get results on behalf of the people.

There is no finer member of my administration then our Vice President, Dick Cheney. He's a great friend, a great adviser, a steady hand. He is the finest Vice President our Nation has ever had, even though Mother may not agree. [*Laughter*]

The Vice President and the members of the Cabinet and all who work in this administration have formed a great team of true public servants who put the interests of the American people first. In 2½ years, we've come far, yet our work is only beginning. We have great goals worthy of this great Nation.

First, America is committed to expanding the realm of freedom and peace for our own security and for the benefit of the world. And second, in our own country, we must work for a society of prosperity and compassion so that every citizen has a chance to work and succeed and realize the promise of America.

Across this world, it has never been more clear that the future of freedom and peace depend on the actions of America. This Nation is freedom's home and freedom's defender. We welcome this charge of history, and we will keep this charge of history.

The war on terror continues. The enemies of freedom are not idle, and neither are we. The country will not rest; we will not tire; and we will not stop until the danger to the free world is removed. Yet, our national interest involves more than eliminating aggressive threats to our safety. Our greatest security comes from the advance of human liberty, because free nations do not support terror. Free nations do not attack their neighbors. Free nations do not threaten the world with weapons of mass destruction.

As Americans, we believe that freedom is the deepest need and hope of every human heart. And we believe that freedom is the right of every person. And we believe that freedom is the future of every nation.

I also understand that unprecedented influence brings tremendous responsibilities. We have duties in the world, and when we

see disease and starvation and hopeless poverty, we will not turn away. On the continent of Africa, America is now committed to bringing the healing power of medicine to millions of men and women and children now suffering with AIDS. We will lead the world in this great work of rescue.

We face challenges at home, and our actions prove that we are equal to those challenges. We have a duty to keep our commitment to America's seniors by strengthening and modernizing Medicare so they have more choices and better access to prescription drugs. The time has arrived for Congress to pass Medicare reform, and that reform must give seniors good options that meet their needs. Members of Congress and their staffs currently get a choice of health care plans, and seniors ought to have the same kind of choices, including the choice to keep their Medicare coverage the way it is. If choice is good for Members of the United States Congress, it is good for America's seniors.

And for the sake of our health care system, we need to cut down on frivolous lawsuits which increase the cost of medicine, lawsuits which increase the cost of medicine and force good doctors to shut down their practices. People who have been harmed by doctors deserve their day in court. Yet, the system should not reward lawyers who are fishing for a good settlement. The medical liability issue is a national problem that requires a national solution. No one has ever been healed by a frivolous lawsuit. The health care system needs Federal liability reform now.

And we have other measures to do to make sure our legal system is fair. I strongly support the class action reform bill passed by the House of Representatives last week, a bill which will ensure more settlement money goes to real victims, not to trial lawyers.

Speaking about legal matters, I have a responsibility as President to make sure the judicial system runs well. And I have met that duty. I have nominated superb men and women to the Federal courts, people who will interpret the law, not legislate from the bench.

Some Members of the Senate are trying to keep my nominees off the bench by blocking up-or-down votes. Every judicial nominee deserves a fair hearing and an up-or-down vote on the floor of the United States Senate. It is time for Members of the Senate to stop playing politics with American justice.

The Congress needs to pass the comprehensive energy plan I submitted. This Nation must promote energy efficiency and conservation. We must work to develop cleaner technology. And we need to produce more natural gas here at home. We've got a problem with supply of natural gas. And sure, conservation will help with that problem. But we've got the technology necessary to explore for natural gas without damaging the environment. For the sake of economic security and for the sake of our national security, we must make America less dependent on foreign sources of energy.

Our strong and prosperous Nation must also be a compassionate nation. I will continue to advance our agenda of compassionate conservatism, applying the best and most innovative ideas to the task of helping our fellow citizens in need. There are still millions of men and women who want to end their dependence on Government and become independent through work, so we must build the success of welfare reform to bring work and dignity to the lives of more Americans.

Congress should complete the "Citizen Service Act" so more Americans can serve their communities and our country. And both Houses should reach agreement on the faith-based bill to support the armies of compassion that—who are mentoring to our children, caring for the homeless, and offering help to the addicted.

A compassionate society must promote opportunity for all of us, including the independence and dignity that come from ownership. I believe strongly in promoting an ownership society. We want more families to own their own home. We want people to have a—own a piece of their retirement. We want Americans to own their own health care plan. And we want people to be able to start their own business. As Republicans, we understand that when somebody owns something, they have a vital stake in the future. An ownership society is a hopeful society in America.

In a compassionate society, people respect one another and take responsibility for the

decisions they make in life. My hope is to change the culture from one that has said, "If it feels good, do it; if you've got a problem, blame somebody else," to one in which every single American understands that he or she are responsible for the decisions that you make; you're responsible for loving your children with all your heart and all your soul; you're responsible for being involved with the quality of the education of your children; you're responsible for making sure the community in which you live is safe; you're responsible for loving your neighbor just like you would like to be loved yourself.

I will continue to work to see that the responsibility era arrives in America. And we can see it beginning to happen, as a result of the culture of service that is arising around us. I proposed and started the USA Freedom Corps to encourage people from all walks of life, all across America, to extend a compassionate hand to neighbors in need. And the response has been strong.

Our faith-based charities across America are also strong, and they're vibrant, bringing hope and healing to our fellow Americans. Policemen and firefighters, people who wear our Nation's uniform, are reminding us what it means to sacrifice for something greater than yourself. And once again, the children of America believe in heroes because they see them every day.

In these challenging times, the world has seen America's resolve and courage. And I have been privileged to see the compassion and the character of the American people. All the tests of the last 2½ years have come to the right nation. We're a strong country, and we will use that strength to defend the peace.

We're an optimistic country. We're confident in ourselves, and we're confident in ideals bigger than ourselves. We seek to lift whole nations by spreading freedom. And at home, we seek to lift up lives by spreading opportunity to every corner, to every person of this great country.

This is the work that history has set before us. We welcome it, and we know that for our country better days lie ahead.

May God bless you, and may God continue to bless America. Thank you all.

NOTE: The President spoke at 6:46 p.m. in the International Ballroom at the Washington Hilton. In his remarks, he referred to his brother, Marvin Bush, and sister, Dorothy Bush Koch; and Republican National Committee chairman Marc Racicot.

Remarks Prior to a Meeting With Congressional Leaders and an Exchange With Reporters

June 18, 2003

Medicare Reform

The President. I want to thank the Members of the United States Senate for coming to discuss the issue of Medicare. I want to congratulate Leader Frist as well as Chairman Grassley and Ranking Member Baucus for really fine work on the Finance Committee to get a important piece of legislation moving. We're committed to reforming the Medicare system so America's seniors get the health care they need.

These Senators around the table have got to work together to see that we get a good plan. I asked them to come so I can figure out ways that our administration can continue to help the process move forward. The work has been really strong thus far. And I want to congratulate you all for fine leadership. Welcome to the White House.

I'll answer a couple of questions. Scott [Scott Lindlaw, Associated Press].

British Prime Minister Tony Blair

Q. Mr. President, Tony Blair is in a bit of trouble at home. He's got a couple of ex-Cabinet officials contending he may have exaggerated information on weapons of mass destruction. He stood by you. Do you plan on saying anything to back him up at home?

The President. Yes, I'll say something right now. He operated on very sound intelligence. And those accusations are simply not true.

Iran

Q. Mr. President?

The President. Yes.

Q. Are you hoping the protesters in Iran will topple the Iranian Government? And now that the IAEA report is out, how are

you going to stop them from getting a nuclear weapon?

The President. Well, the international community must come together to make it very clear to Iran that we will not tolerate the construction of a nuclear weapon. Iran would be dangerous if they have a nuclear weapon. I brought this subject up in the G–8; we had a good discussion on the subject with near universal agreement that we all must work together to prevent Iran from developing a nuclear weapon.

And secondly, I appreciate those courageous souls who speak out for freedom in Iran. They need to know America stands squarely by their side. And I would urge the Iranian administration to treat them with the utmost of respect.

Stretch [Richard Keil, Bloomberg News].

Middle East Peace Process

Q. Mr. President, do you plan to send Dr. Rice to the Middle East soon, particularly given the situation——

The President. I'll let you know when we decide to do so. We, of course, have got Ambassador Wolf in the region now, and he's working hard with both parties. And I called President Mubarak today to ask him to work with the Palestinian Authority to consolidate their security forces under Prime Minister Abbas so that the Prime Minister can achieve the goals that he set out, which is for the dismantlement of terror and what hopefully will be a peaceful Palestinian state.

Thank you all.

Q. You do anticipate sending——

The President. I said, I'll let you know when we send her.

NOTE: The President spoke at 2:23 p.m. in the Cabinet Room at the White House. In his remarks, he referred to Assistant Secretary of State for Nonproliferation John S. Wolf; President Hosni Mubarak of Egypt; and Prime Minister Mahmoud Abbas (Abu Mazen) of the Palestinian Authority. A portion of these remarks could not be verified because the tape was incomplete.

Statement on House of Representatives Action on Estate Tax Legislation

June 18, 2003

I commend the House of Representatives for acting to permanently eliminate the death tax. The death tax results in unfair double taxation of income and it hurts America's small businesses, which are the engine of job creation. Today's vote is a victory for fairness, job creation, and certainty for family businesses, farmers, and ranchers.

Permanently eliminating the death tax is an important step toward increasing fairness in the Tax Code and promoting economic security. I urge the Senate to act on this important matter so that we can eliminate this unfair tax once and for all.

Remarks at the Congressional Picnic

June 18, 2003

The President. Listen, thank you all for coming. Laura and I and Dick and Lynne are so happy you all are here. And we're really happy it's not raining. [*Laughter*]

Audience member. [*Inaudible*]

The President. I bet you are.

First, we're so thrilled that Dennis Edwards and the Temptations Review has joined us tonight. We expect to see some serious rug-cutting or, in this case, grass-cutting. [*Laughter*]

We do want to thank the families who are here. We're so grateful for the wives and husbands of the Members of the Senate and the Congress for being so patient with your loved ones and for supporting them in their service to the United States of America. We want to thank the sons and daughters as well for understanding your dad and your mom are serving something greater than themselves in life.

I want to thank all the Members of Congress from both political parties for doing such a fine job on behalf of the United States of America. You know what I know: We're blessed to live in a great country. And one

of the things that makes us great is we've got tremendous values. We believe in freedom, respect for others, personal responsibility. And today is a day for us all to come together and to celebrate those fantastic values and for us—for Laura and me and for Dick and Lynne—to thank you on behalf of a grateful nation for serving our country so well.

May God bless you and your families, and may God continue to bless the United States of America.

Enjoy yourselves.

NOTE: The President spoke at 6:10 p.m. on the South Grounds at the White House.

Remarks in Fridley, Minnesota

June 19, 2003

Thank you all very much. Forget the spam; I like coming to Minnesota because of the people. [*Laughter*] Thanks for coming today, and I appreciate the warm welcome.

Speaking about sports teams, I had the honor of hosting some sports teams there in the White House this week, two of which happened to be from the great State of Minnesota. It seems like the folks up here know how to play hockey. I welcomed the men's and women's hockey national champs from the University of Minnesota-Twin Cities and University of Minnesota-Duluth. And I've got to tell you, I was impressed by the character of the people on those teams. I know you're proud of them. It's an honor to have met them. They told me I'm going to see them next year, so—[*laughter*]—just like I saw them last year. [*Laughter*]

But it's great to be here. I also want to thank the Hamiltons, Harold and Eleanor, for opening up their business to—[*applause*]. Harold told me that he started his business at the kitchen table. It's really what America is all about, when you think about it. Thirty years ago, Harold and Eleanor sat down at the kitchen table—it might have been before lunch or after lunch, I don't know which one—but they said, "Why don't we see if we can't create an opportunity for not only our family but for others, an opportunity to work."

That's what we call the entrepreneurial spirit. That's the spirit that enables Americans to realize if they work hard, they can achieve a dream. Good government recognizes the importance of the entrepreneurial spirit, and good government creates an environment in which the entrepreneur can flourish. And that's why I worked with the United States Congress to cut the taxes not only on the working people but on the entrepreneurs of America, so they can better realize their dreams.

I want to thank Governor Tim Pawlenty for doing in office what he told you he was going to do. I appreciate your State auditor. She, along with Tim, traveled from the airport. There was no road rage today. [*Laughter*] If you got caught—if you got caught in the motorcade, I'm sorry. [*Laughter*] But we made it in record time from the airport. [*Laughter*]

I appreciate other State leaders—the Lieutenant Governor is here; the speaker is here; the majority leader of the State house is here. Thank you all for coming. I'm honored you're here.

I just had a chance to not only visit with the owner of this fine company, but I had a chance to visit with other entrepreneurs—some of whom I'll mention in my address—and some of the good folks who work for the companies, good, hard-working Minnesota folks who are going to receive significant tax benefit, significant tax relief.

See, one of the things that I understand is, in Washington, DC, when we talk about money, we are not talking about the Government's money. We're talking about the people's money.

And I had a chance to visit with some of the people whose money we're talking about, and what they intend to do with it. The message I heard over and over again from moms and dads was that they intend to save it for their children's future, and that's really important. It means people in this part of the world understand that a responsible society is one in which moms and dads understand their most important responsibility is to love their children with all your heart and all their soul.

I met Deborah Simonet. She's an application developer for 3M. She's a single mom.

That's the hardest job in America, being a single mom. And she is saving for her son's college education. She gets pretty good tax relief, over $1,000 worth of tax relief, money that she gets to decide how to use, money she can allocate according to her needs.

I met the Steins, Jennifer and Terry. They've got five kids. They're a young family. He's working three jobs. She works a job at home, so she can not only put a little extra money on the table but take care of her kids as well. They're going to get good, substantial tax relief. For the sake of their children, they will have additional money. They get to decide to do with the money. It's their money, after all, to begin with.

And this tax relief plan that I worked with Congress to pass recognizes that when you've got an economic issue, you've got a people issue. And the more money people have in their pocket, the more likely this economy is going to grow.

There's been a lot made about the military might of the United States of America. And we're plenty tough. And we're plenty tough and plenty strong because we have a job to do, and that job is to protect America from the designs of terrorists who hate what we stand for. That is a charge we have been given. Protecting America is a charge we have been given, and it is a charge we will keep. And we have made it clear to people: If you harbor a terrorist, if you provide aid for a terrorist, you're just as guilty as any terrorist, and the United States of America will hold you to account.

We're bringing Al Qaida to justice. And for those we haven't brought to justice yet, we're hot on their trail. We're close by. We've got them on the run, and we'll keep them on the run. We sent a clear message to the Taliban in Afghanistan: If you harbor and train terrorists, you will be held to account. The Taliban is no more, and the people of Afghanistan are free, thanks to America and our friends and allies.

We sent a clear message to Saddam Hussein: Disarm. The world has asked you to disarm for 12 solid years, and now is the time, for the security of America and our friends and for peace in the world, for you to disarm. And we gave him plenty chance to do so. And he chose to defy the United States and our friends and allies. The regime of Saddam Hussein is no more. America is more secure; the world is more peaceful; and the long-suffering people of Iraq are now free.

This Nation is plenty strong militarily, but it's not the true strength of America. The true strength of America is the fact that we've got millions of fellow citizens who are willing to love a neighbor just like they would like to be loved themselves. That's the real strength of this country, because we're a deep and compassionate nation. When we see suffering, whether it be here at home or abroad, we care.

So today when I landed, I met a fellow named Ron Strauss. He is a—works for Cargill Cares Volunteer Council. He's just one of thousands of people here in the State of Minnesota that understand their job is to help somebody who hurts. He volunteers time to make a difference in somebody's life. He is willing to serve his country and his community by helping mentor a child, or by starting a Boys or Girls Club, or being a Scout leader amongst young kids, of setting a good example, teaching somebody to read. There's all kinds of ways in which you can help serve your Nation by loving somebody like you would like to be loved yourself. I want to thank Ron for coming. And I want to thank all who are volunteering to make Minnesota a compassionate State.

And if you're interested in serving, just go to USA Freedom Corps on the computer, pull it up on the Internet, and there's all kinds of ways for you to serve our Nation. No, this country is militarily strong, but our true strength is the heart of our fellow citizens.

We have faced challenge in this Nation. We faced challenges to our security; we faced challenges to our economic security as well. I mean, starting in early '01, this Nation was in recession, which is three quarters of negative growth, a recession which affected the Treasury of the United States of America but, more significantly, a recession which affected the pocketbooks of our American citizens. Too many people who wanted to work couldn't find a job.

And things started to get kind of righted, a little better. Then all of a sudden the terrorists hit us, and the attacks of September the

11th, 2001, affected the economy of the United States. It hurt our economy. But we were strong, and we were resilient.

And then we found out some of our fellow citizens were not responsible citizens because they cooked the books. They had a responsibility to shareholder and employee, and they didn't tell the truth. They had positions of responsibility as CEOs in corporate America, and they didn't assume those positions responsibly. And the corporate scandals affected the psychology of the country, kind of shook our confidence a little bit.

And then we had war. And when you hear about war all the time on your TV screens, the speculation of war and the discussion of war, it's not conducive to a confident tomorrow.

But we acted. We acted by holding corporate scoundrels to account. We said loud and clear, if you cheat the shareholder and your employees, you will be held responsible for those decisions.

The world is now more peaceful because we acted.

But we also acted in concert with many in the United States Congress by passing two significant tax relief packages. You see, we understand that when things are slow in the economy, you've got to increase demands for good and services. And the best way to increase demand for good and services, so that somebody will produce a good or a service—and when somebody produces a good or a service, somebody is more likely to find work—is to let people keep more of their own money. That tax relief package we passed 2 years ago helped make the recession one of the shallowest in our Nation's history.

And then I just finished signing another tax relief package, and that package is going to be good for a lot of folks. And I believe it's going to put wind at our back as this economy recovers from what has been a very tough period of time.

Right here in Minnesota, companies are adjusting withholding tables so that the working folks of this State will see more take-home pay. Tax relief not only means more take-home pay, but if you happen to be a mom or a dad with young children, you'll see the child credit go up from $600 a child to $1,000 a child. And a lot of those checks are going to be in the mail to you for the differential this July. As some of them like to say in Washington, the check's in the mail. [*Laughter*] In this case, it better be—[*laughter*]—or somebody's going to be looking for work. [*Laughter*]

As well, Congress is debating further relief for a family with children, further extension of the child credit. I urge them to complete the work on this legislation soon and get it to my desk.

As well, tax relief means a reduced marriage penalty. You see, we want the Tax Code to encourage marriage, not discourage marriage. Tax relief means lower rates on dividends and capital gains, now at 15 percent, to help more than a half a million Minnesota savers.

Tax relief means a lot for small business. You hear all the rhetoric coming out of Washington, DC, kind of class warfare rhetoric. But let me tell you why this tax relief is really good for American economy, besides encouraging more consumer spending and better consumer confidence: because most small businesses pay tax at the individual income tax rate. If you're a Subchapter S or a sole proprietorship, you pay tax based upon what the individual pays. And so therefore, when I talk about tax relief, really what I'm talking about is more money into the treasuries of small businesses. And after all, that's important because 75 percent of the new jobs in America are created by small businesses all across this country.

This tax relief package allowed for higher expense deduction for small businesses, from $25,000 a year to $100,000 a year. And if a small firm invests more than $100,000, it will then qualify for a 50 percent bonus depreciation. Let me tell you what all that means. It means people are more likely to buy equipment. If there's an incentive for capital expenditure and confidence is coming back, people are more likely to make that expenditure.

Just ask the Hamiltons. Here at Micro Control, they've got 140 employees—up from 2, 30 years ago. And so the fundamental question is, can those folks stay working, or can he add jobs? One of the ways you add

jobs is to make the workforce more productive. And one of the ways you make the workforce more productive is you add equipment, which makes your workers more productive.

And so I asked Harold, I said, "You've seen the tax bill; you've seen what—I'm sure you've looked at the consequences of what this means for your company." He said, "Yes, it means it's more likely we're going to hire a mechanical shaker." I didn't know what it meant. [*Laughter*] But I do know this, somebody is going to have to manufacture the mechanical shaker, which means somebody in some other plant is likely to find a job. He assures me the mechanical shaker makes his workforce more productive, which means not only the workers here are going to be likely to stay at work, but it may just mean he has to hire additional people to make that machine work. The Tax Code, the tax relief plan, has encouraged Harold and his wife to make additional investment, which is good for the economy.

I met Brian Dahl. He and his business partners purchased Capital Wood Products 12 years ago, and they moved it to St. Paul in the year 2000. What he wants to do to stay competitive is to purchase additional software. The tax bill that I signed provides incentives for Brian to purchase software so that his company is more productive. As he purchases the software, somebody has got to make it and sell it to him, and that somebody—means that they're more likely to stay at work.

You see, when you provide incentives to the Tax Code and people make rational decisions because of those incentives, it has an effect beyond the wall of the company just making the decisions. It ripples throughout the economy. If you're interested in job creation, which is what I'm interested in, I want to see good public policy that encourages jobs to be created in the private sector. And that's exactly what we have done.

Tim Rashleger is with us, with Milltronics Manufacturing. I met a couple of his employees. He wants them to keep working; that's what he wants. He's a little worried about his company's future. He analyzed the tax bill and said—in his words, not mine—he said, "This could save our company." And not only that, he's going to make additional investments this year; I think he told me $250,000 worth of additional investments. The tax bill saves his company $26,000. That's a lot for Tim. It's good news for his employees. But there's a lot of Tims across the country, just not the Tim right here in this building. There are Tims all across America who are the entrepreneurs of this country, the job creators of this country, who are more likely going to expand their job base.

Listen, I'm interested in one thing. I'm interested in helping people find work. I want people who want to work to be able to find a job. The tax bill we passed understands the significance of small business in our society. The tax bill we passed is really good for the American economy and will make it more likely somebody is going to find a job.

In order to make sure this country is hopeful and the economy expands and people feel secure, we need to deal with health care. We're on the verge of doing something really important for our seniors. We're going to make Medicare a modern system. And it's been hard to do in the past. But in the year 2003, it can be done. I believe it can be done.

I met yesterday with a group of United States Senators from both political parties. The spirit is good there. The issue used to be called "Medi-scare" because people were afraid to talk about the issue because of the political ramifications. I hope we've put all that needless party politics aside and focused on doing what we want to do for our seniors and to have a health care system that is modern, a health care system which includes prescription drugs, and a health care system which gives seniors different choices so they can tailor their health care plans after their own needs. After all, Members of the Congress and their staffs have got the capacity to have choice in their health care systems. And my attitude is, if choice is good enough for the Members of the United States Congress, it's good enough for the seniors of the United States of America.

The other issue regarding health care is whether or not health care is affordable and available, and one reason it's not in certain communities is because there's too many lawsuits. We've got too many junk lawsuits that are running up the cost of health care.

Listen, we want to make sure anybody who is honestly injured ought to have their day in court, of course. And bad doctors ought to be held to account. But medical liability is like a lottery, and they're filing lawsuit after lawsuit after lawsuit, which causes premiums to go up, which means your bills go up. And it means many doctors in hospitals practice preventative medicine, which means they prescribe more than is necessary in order to make sure they cover themselves in case of a lawsuit, which causes your costs to go up. And in a lot of places, docs just quit practicing, which is not good for America.

Medical liability is a national issue—it drives the Medicaid budget; it drives the Medicare budget; it drives the veterans budget—and it requires a national solution. We've got a good bill out of the United States House of Representatives. We need to get it out of the United States Senate. And I would urge you to contact your United States Senators, one of whom I think is a pretty good vote on this issue.

We're worried about regulation on small business in Washington, DC. We understand what regulation does to our small businesses. I believe in associated health care plans for small businesses, to allow small businesses to pool risk across jurisdictional lines so as to reduce the cost to small businesses and their employees. The House is taking this bill up today—timely subject. I hope they pass it. And when they do, the United States Senate must act for the sake of affordable health care for the employees of small businesses all across this country.

And finally, we've got another issue, and that's the issue of energy. For the sake of this economy, we need an energy plan. Listen, I came to this good State and laid out an energy plan for Congress to consider. It was a plan that said we can do a better job of conservation, and we need to do that. We need to unleash new technologies.

But we've got a—we've got a problem with natural gas here in America. The demand for natural gas is going up, but the supply isn't. And any time the demand for a product is going up and the supply is not going up, the price goes up. And our policy thus far on exploration for natural gas has not been very consumer-friendly. There's been a lot of false science put out about what exploration for natural gas would do to certain parts of our country.

We're a technologically capable nation. We can explore for natural gas and protect our environment. We need a energy policy. We need an energy policy that not only helps the economic security of the United States; we need an energy policy that helps our national security, an energy policy which makes us less reliant on foreign sources of energy.

And we've got a lot ahead of us to do, but I'm anxious to do the job that you want me to do. And I believe we can get that done. I believe it. Listen, I've seen this great spirit of this country. I've seen the determination of the American people, the fierce courage of those who wear our uniform, the love and compassion of those who are neighborhood healers and helpers. Now, we're lucky people to live in America. There is no challenge that we can't overcome. There's nothing we can't do when we put our mind to it. And I firmly believe because of the character of the American people, this world will be more peaceful; America will be more secure; and the people that live in this country will be more hopeful.

I want to thank you all for coming today. May God bless you, and may God continue to bless the United States.

NOTE: The President spoke at 1:11 p.m. in the warehouse at Micro Control Co. In his remarks, he referred to Harold Hamilton, owner, Micro Control Co., and his wife, Eleanor; State Auditor Patricia Awada and Lt. Gov. Carol Molnau of Minnesota; Minnesota House of Representatives Speaker Steve Sviggum; Minnesota Senate Majority Leader John C. Hottinger; former President Saddam Hussein of Iraq; Brian Dahl, owner, Capital Wood Products; and Tim Rashleger, owner, Milltronics Manufacturing.

Statement on Congressional Action on Volunteer Service and National Service Legislation

June 19, 2003

I commend Congress, particularly Senators Bond and Mikulski and Representatives Boehner and Hoekstra, for working with my administration and taking swift action to pass the "Strengthen AmeriCorps Program Act."

The bill establishes accounting guidelines for the Corporation for National and Community Service that will help put AmeriCorps on a sound financial footing. It is also the essential first step toward maximizing enrollment this year to benefit the nonprofit organizations that count on AmeriCorps members to offer help and hope to people in communities across the country.

I hope Congress will continue to show strong support for my effort to help every American answer the call to volunteer service and act quickly to strengthen and expand national service by passing the "Citizen Service Act."

Message on the Observance of Juneteenth, 2003

June 19, 2003

I send greetings to those celebrating Juneteenth.

In 1863, President Abraham Lincoln issued the Emancipation Proclamation, declaring "that all persons held as slaves" within the rebellious states "are, and henceforward shall be, free." This news reached slaves slowly as word was passed by Union soldiers and individual plantation owners. Almost two years later, on June 19, 1865, Major General Gordon Granger arrived in Galveston, Texas, to declare the end of the Civil War and the freedom of the slaves.

Juneteenth commemorates General Granger's announcement and provides an opportunity for people across America to celebrate the end of slavery and the joy of freedom. On this day, I encourage all citizens to learn more about the rich heritage of African Americans and their many contributions to our Nation. With knowledge and understanding, we will continue our efforts to ensure that our society provides the opportunity for every person, of every race, to realize the promise of America.

Laura joins me in sending our best wishes for a memorable celebration.

George W. Bush

NOTE: An original was not available for verification of the content of this message.

Remarks Prior to Discussions With President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva of Brazil

June 20, 2003

President Bush. It's my honor to welcome the President of our friend Brazil to the Oval Office. This is the third meeting I will have held with the President. It shows how important our relationship is. Brazil is an incredibly important part of a peaceful and prosperous North and South America. I can say that, from the perspective of the United States, this relationship is a vital and important and growing relationship.

On a personal perspective, I'm very impressed by the vision of the President of Brazil. He's a man who clearly has deep concerns for all the people of Brazil. He not only has a tremendous heart, but he's got the abilities to work closely with his Government and the people of Brazil to encourage prosperity and to end hunger. And today the people of both our countries will see a series of initiatives on a variety of fronts, which indicate that this relationship is a mature relationship and an important relationship.

And Mr. President, I'm honored you're here with us today. Welcome. Thank you, sir.

President Lula da Silva. I think that it's very important in our third meeting that we should make it clear to the public opinion—to Brazilian and American public opinion—about the relationship between Brazil and the United States. It is a very strong relationship that has been in existence for a long period. I always believe that it is possible to even improve more these relationships. Since the last time I was here, on December the 10th of last year, still as President-elect, I went back to Brazil with a certainty that Brazil and the United States do have the possibility—can have the most profitable relationship with the United States. And this relationship between Brazil and the United States should be on the basis of sincerity between people, on the reliability that the leadership must have, and not just build up a spectacle for the press and for the public.

I learned during my past life to—I learned how to deal with people on the basis of trust. And I believe that Brazil is and can continue to be a good partner of the United States.

We have many things in common. And certainly, this meeting that we are accomplishing today, this is a novelty. It's not a summit meeting with two Presidents, but it's a meeting that has Cabinet members of both Governments, so that from this meeting onwards, our ministers can continue to work together independently of the two Presidents. And without any question, I believe that we can surprise the world in terms of the relationship of Brazil and the United States.

And I hope that soon we will have a meeting in Brazil so that President Bush can personally see the dimensions and size of our country, that Brazil is not just Carnival, and it's not only soccer. We have other marvelous things in the country.

President Bush. Thank you, sir. Thank you all for coming. Thank you.

NOTE: The President spoke at 10:50 a.m. in the Oval Office at the White House. A tape was not available for verification of the content of these remarks.

Joint Statement Between the United States of America and the Federative Republic of Brazil

June 20, 2003

The United States and Brazil resolve to create a closer and qualitatively stronger relationship between our two countries. It is time to chart a newly purposeful direction in our relationship, guided by a shared vision of freedom, democracy, peace, prosperity, and well-being for our peoples, in order to promote hemispheric and global cooperation.

We are among the most populous democracies in the world. Forged from diverse cultures, proving that diversity is our strength. Continental in size and immigrant in origin, we share the fundamental belief that freedom, democracy, and social justice are universal aspirations, essential for peace and prosperity and unconstrained by either culture or level of economic development. Our commitment to human rights for all people in every nation is strong and unwavering.

We agree that representative democracy and the rule of law are indispensable to building modern economies and political systems that promote growth, accountability, transparency, and stability, and encourage economic opportunity without favor or prejudice. Democracy is essential to sustainable development. In the same way, reducing inequality and improving social justice contribute to stability and international security.

We affirm that countries should embrace policies that promote growth and social inclusion, which are the key to increasing incomes, improving standards of living, and ending poverty and hunger. We share the conviction that governments should work to empower their people through good governance, fighting corruption, ensuring personal security, encouraging enterprise, and providing all citizens access to high-quality education, adequate health, and nutritional care.

We agree that free trade furthers prosperity and development, contributes to the promotion of entrepreneurial initiative and to the strengthening of the private sector, with positive social impact. We also agree that trade liberalization can contribute to dynamic growth, technological innovation, and to individual and collective advancement over the long term. We therefore reaffirm our commitment to fighting protectionism.

We have built creative, entrepreneurial societies. Regionally as well as globally, we have important responsibilities in areas such as commerce, science and technology, energy, environmental protection, education, and health. The currents of commerce and culture that link our societies run strong and deep. Our partnership of shared values leads us to seek a natural partnership of shared endeavors.

As two nations recognizing both the promise and desperate poverty of Africa, and the strong ties and African heritage of many of our citizens, we commit ourselves to working together for an African continent that lives in liberty, peace, and growing prosperity. We intend to pursue this goal through our diplomacy and the promotion of projects that reinforce economic, commercial, social, and cultural ties with the countries of Africa.

Therefore, the United States and Brazil will engage in regular consultations, working

together for prosperity, democratic governance, and peace in the hemisphere and beyond. Reaffirming our commitment to advance common values, we will continue to work together to protect and advance democracy, human rights, tolerance, religious freedom, free speech and independent media, economic opportunity, and the rule of law.

We will cooperate on issues of mutual interest that contribute to the defense and security of the hemisphere, bolstering joint efforts to counter terrorism, narcotics trafficking and consumption, trafficking in persons, and other transnational criminal challenges to regional peace.

Our strength lies in the ability of our people to shape their destiny and to realize their aspirations for a better life. That is why the United States and Brazil are and will remain allies in the cause of democracy. We will share our experience in nurturing and strengthening democratic institutions the world over, thereby fighting challenges to the democratic order from poverty, illiteracy, intolerance, and terrorism. Moreover, we recognize that successfully addressing the hemisphere's challenges requires collaborative and cooperative efforts and, to that end, we will work together to strengthen the Organization of American States, the bulwark of regional cooperation, including through implementation of the Inter-American Democratic Charter. We need to reinforce the U.N. system, especially by exploring ways to make the Security Council and other U.N. bodies more effective and more responsive to current international challenges and realities.

We have much to learn from each country's unique experience in modernizing our economies; achieving advances in science, technology, and medicine; finding solutions to pressing environmental problems; addressing energy challenges and needs; and advancing quality education and expanding enrollments in primary education. We are committed to working together to find concrete ways to extend the benefits of these reforms to all our people.

We will cooperate, including through direct contacts between the business communities of our countries, to advance U.S.-Brazilian economic, trade, and investment relations; and recognizing our responsibility as co-chairs of the negotiations, to successfully conclude the negotiations for a Free Trade Area of the Americas by January 2005.

We will work together to preserve and promote stability and growth in the global economy. Opening trade and resisting protectionism are essential for meeting that challenge. We support an open, equitable, transparent, and rules-based multilateral trading system, and we will work together to strengthen it, especially by working for a successful completion of the WTO negotiations of the Doha Development Agenda by January 2005.

Today, we pledge to deepen the U.S.-Brazilian partnership in mutually positive ways, always seizing opportunities to advance the diversified interests we have in common, always seeking to reconcile differences through dialogue and engagement. Our constructive partnership is not an end in itself, but a means to all these ends. It is reinforced by, inter alia, academic, cultural and commercial ties, and increasing kinship among our people. In this process of further enhancing our bilateral relations, we have decided to give special attention to the following areas: science and technology, energy, education, health, economic growth, and agriculture.

As further indication of our close ties, U.S. and Brazilian advisors will consult often, maintaining a dialogue on these matters of mutual interest. We have also agreed on a framework for high-level consultations and joint working groups across the broad spectrum of areas in which we are determined to institutionalize our enhanced cooperation.

For the United States and Brazil, this is a day marked by the crossing of a new threshold into a higher stage in our relationship. We have before us the possibility to realize the full potential of such a relationship. We will work to seize that opportunity, for our benefit and for all those with whom we share this increasingly interdependent world.

NOTE: An original was not available for verification of the content of this joint statement.

Remarks on Departure for Greensboro, Georgia

June 20, 2003

Appointment of Scott McClellan as White House Press Secretary

The President. I am, one, sad that Ari's leaving. He's done a fabulous job for my administration. I appreciate his friendship, his ability to handle a very tough job, and that is dealing with you.

Fortunately, I've got a good man to take his place in Scott McClellan. I've known Scott for a long time. I look forward to working closely with him to make sure that the American people, and, of course, the press corps gets the information that's needed to reflect the philosophy and the decision-making of this administration. He'll be able to do the job like Ari did, with the highest amount of professionalism and class, and I've got the full confidence in my new Press Secretary.

Deputy Press Secretary McClellan. Mr. President, I'm honored. Thank you for your support and confidence. Four-and-a-half years ago, I went to work for the President because I believed in his leadership and I believed in his agenda. I knew that the President was a results-oriented, inclusive leader who governed from clear principles and compassionate conservative philosophy. And we have made a tremendous amount of progress in the last 2½ years, and I look forward to doing my small part as part of an outstanding White House team, to help him build upon that record of accomplishment.

It is also a special privilege to be following my good friend, Ari Fleischer, who has served the President exceptionally well and served the American people exceptionally well. I look forward to working with the White House press corps, at least most of you, anyway, as we do our part to keep the American people informed about the decisions that are being made here in Washington, DC.

So Mr. President, thank you for this opportunity, and I look forward to it.

The President. Thank you very much. Ari, thank you, buddy. You've done a great job. Thank you all. Have a great weekend. See you in Georgia.

NOTE: The President spoke at 3:39 p.m. on the South Lawn at the White House. A tape was not available for verification of the content of these remarks.

Statement on the Death of Larry Doby

June 20, 2003

Larry Doby was a good and honorable man and a tremendous athlete and manager. He had a profound influence on the game of baseball, and he will be missed. As the first African American player in the American League, he helped lead the Cleveland Indians to their last World Series title in 1948, became a nine-time All-Star, and was voted into the Baseball Hall of Fame in 1998. Laura joins me in sending our condolences to Larry's family during this difficult time.

Executive Order 13308—Further Amendment to Executive Order 12580, as Amended, Superfund Implementation

June 20, 2003

By the authority vested in me as President by the Constitution and the laws of the United States of America, including section 115 of the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act of 1980, as amended (42 U.S.C. 9601 *et seq.*) (the "Act"), and section 301 of title 3, United States Code, Executive Order 12580 of January 23, 1987, is hereby amended as follows:

Section 1. In Section 1(b)(1), the phrase "Sections 105(a), (b), (c), and (g)" is revised to read "Sections 105(a), (b), (c), (g) and (h)".

Sec. 2. In Section 5, a new subsection (f) and a new subsection (g) are added to read as follows:

> "(f) The functions vested in the President by Section 107(o) and (p) of the Act are delegated to the heads of the Executive departments and agencies, to be exercised in consultation with the Administrator, with respect to releases or threatened releases where either the release is on or the sole source of the

release is from any facility under the jurisdiction, custody, or control of those departments and agencies.

(g) Subject to subsection (f) of this Section, the functions vested in the President by Section 107(o) and (p) of the Act are delegated to the Administrator except that, with respect to determinations regarding natural resource restoration, the Administrator shall make such determinations in consultation with the appropriate Federal natural resource trustee."

Sec. 3. New Sections 12, 13, and 14 are added to read as follows:

"***Sec. 12.*** *Brownfields.*

(a) The functions vested in the President by Sections 101(39) and (41) and 104(k) of the Act are delegated to the Administrator.

(b) The functions vested in the President by Section 128(b)(1)(B)(ii) of the Act are delegated to the heads of the Executive departments and agencies, to be exercised in consultation with the Administrator, with respect to property subject to their jurisdiction, custody, or control.

(c) The functions vested in the President by Section 128(b)(1)(E) of the Act are delegated to the heads of Executive departments and agencies in cases where they have acted under subsection (b) of this Section.

(d) Subject to subsections (b) and (c) of this Section, the functions vested in the President by Section 128 of the Act are delegated to the Administrator.

"***Sec. 13.*** *Preservation of Authorities.*

Nothing in this order shall be construed to impair or otherwise affect the functions of the Director of the Office of Management and Budget relating to budget, administrative, or legislative proposals.

"***Sec. 14.*** *General Provision.*

This order is intended only to improve the internal management of the Federal Government and is not intended to, and does not, create any right or benefit, substantive or procedural, enforceable at law or equity by a party against the United States, its departments, agencies, instrumentalities, or entities, its officers or employees, or any other person."

George W. Bush

The White House,
June 20, 2003.

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 8:45 a.m., June 23, 2003]

NOTE: This Executive order will be published in the *Federal Register* on June 24.

Notice—Continuation of the National Emergency With Respect to the Western Balkans

June 20, 2003

On June 26, 2001, by Executive Order 13219, I declared a national emergency with respect to the Western Balkans pursuant to the International Emergency Economic Powers Act (50 U.S.C. 1701–1706) to deal with the unusual and extraordinary threat to the national security and foreign policy of the United States constituted by the actions of persons engaged in, or assisting, sponsoring, or supporting, (i) extremist violence in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, and elsewhere in the Western Balkans region, or (ii) acts obstructing implementation of the Dayton Accords in Bosnia or United Nations Security Council Resolution 1244 of June 10, 1999, in Kosovo. Subsequent to the declaration of the national emergency, the actions of persons obstructing implementation of the Ohrid Framework Agreement of 2001 in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia have also become a pressing concern. I amended Executive Order 13219 on May 28, 2003, in Executive Order 13304 to address this concern and to take additional steps with respect to the national emergency. Because the actions of persons threatening the peace and international stabilization efforts in the Western Balkans continue to pose an unusual and extraordinary threat to the national security and foreign policy of the United States, the national emergency declared on June 26, 2001, and the measures adopted on that date and thereafter to deal with that emergency must continue in effect beyond June 26,

2003. Therefore, in accordance with section 202(d) of the National Emergencies Act (50 U.S.C. 1622(d)), I am continuing for 1 year the national emergency with respect to the Western Balkans.

This notice shall be published in the *Federal Register* and transmitted to the Congress.

George W. Bush

The White House,
June 20, 2003.

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 8:45 a.m., June 23, 2003]

NOTE: This notice will be published in the *Federal Register* on June 24.

Message to the Congress on Continuation of the National Emergency With Respect to the Western Balkans

June 20, 2003

To the Congress of the United States:

Section 202(d) of the National Emergencies Act (50 U.S.C. 1622(d)) provides for the automatic termination of a national emergency unless, prior to the anniversary date of its declaration, the President publishes in the *Federal Register* and transmits to the Congress a notice stating that the emergency is to continue in effect beyond the anniversary date. Consistent with this provision, I have sent the enclosed notice, stating that the Western Balkans emergency is to continue in effect beyond June 26, 2003, to the *Federal Register* for publication. The most recent notice continuing this emergency was published in the *Federal Register* on June 25, 2002, 67 *Fed. Reg.* 42703.

The crisis constituted by the actions of persons engaged in, or assisting, sponsoring, or supporting, (i) extremist violence in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, and elsewhere in the Western Balkans region, or (ii) acts obstructing implementation of the Dayton Accords in Bosnia or United Nations Security Council Resolution 1244 of June 10, 1999, in Kosovo, that led to the declaration of a national emergency on June 26, 2001, has not been resolved. Subsequent to the declaration of the national emergency, acts obstructing implementation of the Ohrid Framework Agreement of 2001 in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, have also become a concern. All of these actions are hostile to U.S. interests and pose a continuing unusual and extraordinary threat to the national security and foreign policy of the United States. For these reasons, I have determined that it is necessary to continue the national emergency declared with respect to the Western Balkans and maintain in force the comprehensive sanctions to respond to this threat.

George W. Bush

The White House,
June 20, 2003.

Message to the Congress Transmitting a Report on the National Emergency With Respect to the Western Balkans

June 20, 2003

To the Congress of the United States:

Consistent with section 401(c) of the National Emergencies Act, 50 U.S.C. 1641(c), and section 204(c) of the International Emergency Economic Powers Act, 50 U.S.C. 1703(c), I transmit herewith a 6-month report prepared by my Administration on the national emergency with respect to the Western Balkans that was declared in Executive Order 13219 of June 26, 2001.

George W. Bush

The White House,
June 20, 2003.

Letter to Congressional Leaders Transmitting a Report on Cyprus

June 20, 2003

Dear Mr. Speaker: (Dear Mr. Chairman:)

Consistent with section 620C(c) of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961, as amended, I am providing a report prepared by my Administration on progress toward a negotiated solution of the Cyprus question covering the period April 1 through May 31, 2003. The

previous submission covered February 1 through March 31, 2003.

The United States remains committed to finding a just and lasting settlement for Cyprus. Serious efforts continued during this reporting period to persuade the two sides on Cyprus to resume negotiations under the auspices of the United Nations Good Offices Mission for Cyprus, on the basis of United Nations Secretary-General Kofi Annan's proposed settlement plan. As in the past, U.S. officials, including Secretary of State Powell, Under Secretary of State Marc Grossman, Special Cyprus Coordinator Thomas G. Weston, Ambassador to Cyprus Michael Klosson, Ambassador to Turkey Robert Pearson, and Ambassador to Greece Thomas Miller provided intensive diplomatic support to this process.

Sincerely,

George W. Bush

NOTE: Identical letters were sent to J. Dennis Hastert, Speaker of the House of Representatives, and Richard G. Lugar, chairman, Senate Committee on Foreign Relations.

Digest of Other White House Announcements

The following list includes the President's public schedule and other items of general interest announced by the Office of the Press Secretary and not included elsewhere in this issue.

June 14

In the morning, at the Bush family home in Kennebunkport, ME, the President had an intelligence briefing.

June 16

In the morning, the President had an intelligence briefing. Later, he traveled to Orange, NJ, where he participated in a roundtable discussion with small-business owners and employees and toured the production facility at Andrea Foods. He then traveled to Elizabeth, NJ.

In the afternoon, the President returned to Washington, DC.

June 17

In the morning, the President had intelligence and FBI briefings. He then traveled to Annandale, VA, where he participated in a roundtable discussion on employment training at Northern Virginia Community College. Later, he returned to Washington, DC.

The President announced his selection of William H. Leary as Chair of the Information Security Classification Appeals Panel.

June 18

In the morning, the President met with Speaker of the House of Representatives J. Dennis Hastert, House Majority Leader Tom DeLay, House Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi, Senate Majority Leader Bill Frist, and Senate Minority Leader Tom Daschle to discuss pending legislation and the President's recent trip to Europe and the Middle East. He then had intelligence and FBI briefings and met with the National Security Council.

Later in the morning, in the Roosevelt Room, the President participated in a roundtable discussion with representatives of Prison Fellowship Ministries.

In the afternoon, the President had lunch with Vice President Dick Cheney.

The White House announced that the President will welcome Prime Minister Vladimir Spidla of the Czech Republic to the White House on July 15.

The President announced his intention to nominate Alicia R. Castaneda to be a Director on the Board of Directors of the Federal Housing Finance Board.

June 19

In the morning, the President had intelligence and FBI briefings. He then traveled to Fridley, MN.

In the afternoon, the President met with small-business owners and employees at Micro Control Co. Later, he returned to Washington, DC.

The President announced his intention to nominate Jackie Wolcott Sanders for the rank of Ambassador during her tenure of service as U.S. Representative to the Conference on Disarmament and the Special Representative of the President for Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons.

June 20

In the morning, the President had an intelligence briefing and met with the National Security Council. He also had a telephone conversation with President Jose Maria Aznar of Spain to discuss transatlantic and global issues.

In the afternoon, the President had lunch with President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva of Brazil, following their meeting in the Oval Office.

Later in the afternoon, the President traveled to Greensboro, GA.

In the evening, the President returned to Washington, DC.

The White House announced that the President will welcome President Mireya Moscoso of Panama to the White House for a meeting on June 26.

The White House announced that the President will travel to Africa, visiting Senegal, South Africa, Botswana, Uganda, and Nigeria on July 7–12.

The President announced his intention to nominate Rene Acosta to be Assistant Attorney General, Civil Rights Division, at the Department of Justice.

Nominations Submitted to the Senate

The following list does not include promotions of members of the Uniformed Services, nominations to the Service Academies, or nominations of Foreign Service officers.

Submitted June 16

Suedeen G. Kelly,
of New Mexico, to be a member of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission for the remainder of the term expiring June 30, 2004, vice Curt Hebert, Jr., resigned.

C. Suzanne Mencer,
of Colorado, to be the Director of the Office for Domestic Preparedness, Department of Homeland Security (new position).

Submitted June 18

Alicia R. Castaneda,
of the District of Columbia, to be a Director of the Federal Housing Finance Board for a term expiring February 27, 2004, vice J. Timothy O'Neill, term expired.

Alicia R. Castaneda,
of the District of Columbia, to be a Director of the Federal Housing Finance Board for a term expiring February 27, 2011 (reappointment).

Roger W. Titus,
of Maryland, to be U.S. District Judge for the District of Maryland, vice Marvin J. Garbis, retired.

Submitted June 19

Jackie Wolcott Sanders,
of Virginia, for the rank of Ambassador during her tenure of service as U.S. Representative to the Conference on Disarmament and the Special Representative of the President of the United States for Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons.

Checklist of White House Press Releases

The following list contains releases of the Office of the Press Secretary that are neither printed as items nor covered by entries in the Digest of Other White House Announcements.

Released June 14

Statement by the Press Secretary: Recent Demonstrations in Iran

Released June 16

Transcript of a press gaggle by Press Secretary Ari Fleischer

Released June 17

Transcript of a press briefing by Press Secretary Ari Fleischer

Statement by the Press Secretary on selection of Chair of theInformation Security Classification Appeals Panel

Fact sheet: Providing Job Opportunities for America's Workers

Released June 18

Transcript of a press briefing by Press Secretary Ari Fleischer

Statement by the Press Secretary announcing that the President signed H.R. 192 and S. 273 on June 17

Statement by the Press Secretary: Prime Minister Vladimir Spidlaof the Czech Republic To Visit Washington

Released June 19

Transcript of a press gaggle by Press Secretary Ari Fleischer

Statement by the Press Secretary on internal security legislationunder consideration by Hong Kong's Legislative Council

Released June 20

Statement by the Press Secretary on the President's upcoming visit to Africa

Statement by the Press Secretary: U.S.-Brazil Energy Partnership

Fact sheet: U.S.-Brazil: Advancing Business Development and SME Growth

Fact sheet: U.S.-Brazil Joint Venture on HIV/AIDS in Lusophone Africa

Fact sheet: U.S.-Brazil: Supporting the Zero Hunger Project

Fact sheet: White House South Lawn Tee Ball

Announcement of appointment of White House Press Secretary

Acts Approved by the President

Approved June 17

H.R. 192 / Public Law 108–31
To amend the Microenterprise for Self-Reliance Act of 2000 and the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 to increase assistance for the poorest people in developing countries under microenterprise assistance programs under those Acts, and for other purposes

S. 273 / Public Law 108–32
Grand Teton National Park Land Exchange Act

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